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between the light source and the recording medium.

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42. (ONCE AMENDED) An optical pickup for recording information to and/or reproducing information from a recording medium, the optical pickup comprising:
a light source which emits light;
a photodetector; and
an objective lens device which forms the emitted light as a spot on the recording medium and communicates light reflected by the recording medium toward the photodetector, the objective lens device comprising:
a first lens having a negative power and formed of a material having an Abbe number which is 45 or less in line d,
a second lens having a positive power and forming a doublet with the first lens,
and
a third lens having a positive power, wherein:
one of the second and third lenses is aspherical .

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 21, 23, 36 and 42 have been amended and claims 9-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus, claims 1-8 and 17-42 are now pending and under consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter:

At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 17-42 are allowed, however, the Examiner objects to claims 21, 23 and 36 because of informalities therein and claims 37-41 because of informalities in claim 36. Claims 21, 23 and 36 have been amended as set forth above. Applicants submit that the above amendments overcome the objections to claims 21, 23, 36 and 37-41.

Claim Objections:

At page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 9-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but the Examiner states that claims 9-16 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Rather than add 7 dependent claims, corresponding to claims 9-16, claim 1 has been amended to include the features recited in each of original dependent claims 9-16 and claims 9-16 have been

canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claim 1, as amended, becomes equivalent to original claim 13, claim 2 becomes equivalent to original claim 14, claim 6 becomes equivalent to original claim 10, claim 7 becomes equivalent to original claim 11, claim 3 becomes equivalent to original claim 15, claim 8 becomes equivalent to original claim 12, claim 4 becomes equivalent to original claim 16, and claim 5 becomes equivalent to original claim 9.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that "the" should be inserted between "of" and "surfaces." This portion of the claim has been amended in a form different from that suggested by the Examiner and is believed to now be grammatically correct.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that brackets "[]" should be replaced by commas. The brackets nor the text between the brackets is needed, therefore both the brackets and the text within the brackets have been deleted. In the marked version, the deletion of the brackets and the text between the brackets is noted by **bold ([])** brackets.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that in line 1 of claims 7, 8, 21 and 23, "the" should be inserted after "wherein." Claims 7, 8, 21 and 23 have been amended to recite "wherein second and third lenses of the three lenses," rather than to recite "wherein the second and third of the three lenses," as suggested by the Examiner. The form used in amended claims 7, 8, 21 and 23 is consistent with the form used in claim 5.

The First 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection:

At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,912,379 to DeJager. Claim 1 has been amended as set forth above to include the features of original claim 13, so that amended claim 1 is equivalent to original claim 13. By virtue of the inclusion of the features of original claim 13 in amended claim 1, claims 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8, being dependent on amended claim 1, become equivalent to original claims 15, 16, 9, 11 and 12, respectively, and therefore claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 are deemed to be allowable over DeJager.

The Second 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection:

At page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,668,669 to Ohtake et al. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of original claim 13, which is similar to the feature in original claim 10. The Examiner has determined that original claim 10 is allowable. Thus, claims 1, 2

and 6 become equivalent to original claims 13, 14 and 10, respectively, and are now deemed to be allowable over Ohtake et al.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3/19/03

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please CANCEL claims 9-16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) An objective lens device comprising three lenses wherein:
a first of the three lenses has a negative power and is formed of a material having an Abbe number which is 45 or less in line d_i [, and]
at least one [surface of surfaces] of the three lenses [is] comprises an aspherical surface; and
where a focal length of the first lens is f_n and an overall focal length of the objective lens device is f , the objective lens device satisfies the equation:

$$\underline{-2.4 < \frac{f_n}{f} < -1.4.}$$

4. (ONCE AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first lens [[having a negative power]] is formed of glass or plastic.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein second and third lenses of the three lenses have a positive power and the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses.

8. (ONCE AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein second and third lenses of the three lenses have a positive power and the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses.

21. (ONCE AMENDED) The optical pickup as claimed in claim 17, wherein second and third lenses of the three lenses have a positive power and the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses.

23. (ONCE AMENDED) The optical pickup as claimed in claim 19, wherein second and third lenses of the three lenses have a positive power and the first lens is disposed between the

second and third lenses.

36. (ONCE AMENDED) An optical pickup for [recording/reproducing] recording information to and/or reproducing information [to/from] from a recording medium, the optical pickup comprising:

- a light source which emits light;

- a photodetector; and

- an optical system which communicates the emitted light to the recording medium and communicates light reflected by the recording medium to the photodetector, the optical system comprising:

 - an objective lens device which forms the emitted light into a light spot on the recording medium, the objective lens device comprising first, second and third lenses, wherein:

 - the first lens has a negative power and is formed of a material having an Abbe number which is 45 or less in line d,

 - the second and third lenses have a positive power,

 - one of the second and third lenses is aspherical, and

 - the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses on an optical path between the light source and the recording medium.

42. (ONCE AMENDED) An optical pickup for [recording/reproducing] recording information to and/or reproducing information [to/from] from a recording medium, the optical pickup comprising:

- a light source which emits light;

- a photodetector; and

- an objective lens device which forms the emitted light as a spot on the recording medium and communicates light reflected by the recording medium toward the photodetector, the objective lens device comprising:

 - a first lens having a negative power and formed of a material having an Abbe number which is 45 or less in line d,

 - a second lens having a positive power and forming a doublet with the first lens,

and

 - a third lens having a positive power, wherein:

 - one of the second and third lenses is aspherical[, and].